

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SHB 1388

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As of March 12, 2009

**Title:** An act relating to changing the date for setting the amount of pipeline safety fees.

**Brief Description:** Changing the date for setting the amount of pipeline safety fees.

**Sponsors:** House Committee on Technology, Energy & Communications (originally sponsored by Representatives Jacks, McCoy, Crouse and Morris; by request of Utilities & Transportation Commission).

**Brief History:** Passed House: 2/23/09, 96-0.

**Committee Activity:** Environment, Water & Energy: 3/13/09.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, WATER & ENERGY

**Staff:** Sam Thompson (786-7413)

**Background:** The State Pipeline Safety Program, administered by the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC), is funded by federal grants and by pipeline safety fees that the UTC annually sets and assesses upon pipeline companies. Fee amounts depend upon annual federal grant funding levels. Current law requires the UTC to bill companies for fees before July 1 each year. Since the agency does not receive information regarding federal grant funding by that date, this billing is an estimate. The UTC sends final invoices to companies in September, after it receives pertinent grant funding information. It is suggested that UTC billing should be aligned with the federal grant determination to avoid the need for two rounds of billing.

**Summary of Bill:** The requirement for the UTC to set pipeline safety fees before July 1 each year is revised to provide that the UTC must set pipeline safety fees before a date it establishes by administrative rule. A reference to a previously repealed section is deleted.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

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